I think the ARRL's proposal is just what we need to get new operators, and give more incentive to current operators. Its not about who has taken what exam in the past, its about comradery and friendship between ALL operators. What better way to do this than to be able to talk to operators all over the country! If a novice on HF has access to an extra class on HF I think it will allow him to learn and benefit from the more experienced operator!